



Washington State Department of Early Learning

Reauthorization of the Child Care & Development Block Grant Act

The Child Care & Development Block Grant Act of 2014, which Congress passed with strong bipartisan support, reauthorizes the child care program for the first time since 1996 and represents an historic re-envisioning of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program.

The law makes important statutory changes focused on better balancing the dual purposes of CCDF – to promote families’ economic self-sufficiency by making child care more affordable, and fostering healthy child development and school success by improving the overall quality of early learning and afterschool programs. It also makes significant advancements by defining health and safety requirements for child care providers, outlining family-friendly eligibility policies, and ensuring parents and the general public have transparent information about the child care choices available to them.

The Office of Child Care (OCC) will be providing guidance, technical assistance, and training to states on the many new changes in the law in the coming months. Please see the *CCDBG Reauthorization* for more information about the reauthorization and implementation of the new statute: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/occ/ccdf-reauthorization>.

Implications for the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC)

The law now requires the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to coordinate the following activities with ELAC as the State Early Childhood Advisory Council designated by the Head Start Act of 2007:

- **Child Care Development Fund Plan:** Washington State’s CCDF Plan must be developed in consultation with ELAC.
- **Training and Professional Development Requirements:** Washington’s training and professional development requirements for child care providers must be developed in consultation with ELAC.
- **Early Learning and Developmental Guidelines:** DEL must maintain and implement the guidelines on what children should know and be able to do from birth to kindergarten entry in consultation with ELAC.
- **Washington’s Statewide Child Care Disaster Plan:** The plan must include a strategy for coordinating activities and collaboration, in the event of an emergency or disaster, with DEL Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the Military Department, the local resource and referral organizations, Child Care Aware (the State resource and referral system), and ELAC.
- **Payment Rate Survey:** DEL must consult with ELAC on the market rate survey for child care services in Washington.